

REMARKS

Claims in the Application. Claims 1-20 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejection of the Claims under 35 USC § 102(b). The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,138,760 ("*Lopez*"); US Patent No. 5,547,026 ("*Brannon*"); 5,813,466 ("*Harris*"); and 5,201,370 ("*Tjon-Joe-Pin*"). These grounds for rejection are traversed.

Brannon discloses a blocking gel containing such derivatized guar as guar gum, hydroxypropyl guar (HPG) and carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar (CMHPG). *Brannon* does not disclose the use of carboxymethyl guar (CMG). *Brannon* is discussed on pages 2 and 7 of the originally filed specification. For instance, on page 2 of the specification, the need for blocking gels exhibiting greater thermal stability than those of *Brannon* is discussed. On page 7 of the specification, a further improvement over the blocking gels of *Brannon* is discussed since by using CMG, it is unnecessary to add unhydrated polymer particulate in the crosslinkable gel.

In the accompanying Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 of Hoang Le, it is demonstrated that the claimed CMG based fluids of Applicants render a much lower leak-off rate at the critical time period from introduction into the formation than those fluids based on CMHPG. The dangers of leak-off and the need for fluids with low leak-off are discussed on pages 1 and 8 of Applicants' originally filed specification, respectively. The unexpected results demonstrated are neither disclosed nor suggested by *Brannon*. Reconsideration of the rejection in light of the Declaration is respectfully requested.

Lopez is not directed to a method of forming a blocking gel. *Lopez* merely discloses the use of a guar derivative in a pre-treatment enzyme containing fluid. No reference is made in *Lopez* to use of a CMG based fluid to form a temporary blocking gel.

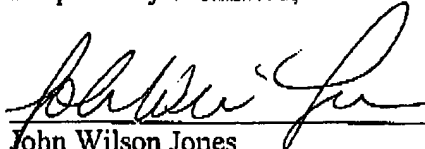
Harris is directed to the use of enzymes to break a crosslinked polysaccharide gel. *Harris*, like *Lopez*, makes no disclosure relating to the use of CMG to form a temporary blocking gel.

Tjon-Joe-Pin is directed to a method of fracturing. There is no disclosure in *Tjon-Joe-Pin* of forming a blocking gel or controlling fluid loss by use of a blocking gel containing CMG. Reconsideration is therefore requested.

Conclusions. In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 11, 2006

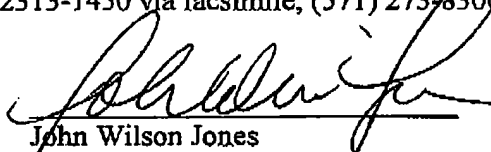


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION, 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via facsimile, (571) 273-8300 on this the 11th day of September 2006.



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